

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated March 21, 2003. Claims 1-25 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 26-52 have been added. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-25 without prejudice to further prosecute these claims at a later time. Applicant has added new claims 26-52. Support for the claims may be found throughout the specification, the Figures and in the original claims. It is believed that no new matter has been entered. Examples of certain features recited in some of the claims are found in the specification as follows. Fig. 3 illustrates an example of an embodiment including an upper level wiring layer having first and second sub-layers. Applicant further notes that Fig. 8 illustrates an example of an embodiment including plugs formed in a staggered manner. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's citations to the art as discussed in the Office Action dated March 21, 2003 do not describe or suggest the claimed subject matter.

Applicant further notes that the Examiner's comments in the Office Action are deemed moot at this time in view of this response.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 26-52 are in patentable form. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss the steps necessary to place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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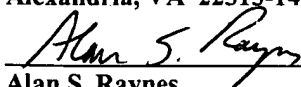
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June 23, 2003

(Date)